

OREGON CROP WEATHER



**NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE**

USDA, NASS, Oregon Field Office

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Weather: Conditions were generally warm and dry throughout much of the State last week. High temperatures ranged from 98 degrees in Medford, down to 61 degrees in Crescent City. Low temperatures ranged from 51 degrees also in Medford, down to 27 degrees in Christmas Valley. Out of the forty-one weather stations reporting, none reported any measurable precipitation. As a result, precipitation levels were below average State-wide for the second week in a row. With the exception of coastal areas, temperatures were above normal at most stations.

Field Crops: Warm and dry weather conditions this past week were ideal for harvesting grains still standing. Sprout damage on some grains that were harvested late was apparent. Haying continued across the State as the third cutting of alfalfa hay progressed. In Marion County, some fourth cuttings of hay were made and the mint and hop harvests in were nearing completion. Fall ground preparations continued throughout the State. While winter wheat began to appear in early seeded fields in Gilliam County, more moisture is needed to help grain seeding in eastern areas.

Vegetables: Even though vegetable crops were nearing the end of harvest, local markets remained busy with a plentiful amount of produce. Freezing temperatures during the past couple weeks have had an impact on some sweet corn in the northeastern part of the State. The carrot seed harvest was just beginning in central Oregon. Harvest conditions were looking favorable, despite starting a week or

two later than last year. Vegetable seed crops were being combined in Douglas County.

Fruits and Nuts: Hazelnut orchards continued to prepare for harvest with some early varieties beginning to drop. Although still behind normal ripening pace, the dry and warm conditions from last week allowed wine grapes to mature nicely and the crop continued to look good. The pear harvest was moving quickly in Douglas County with some varieties such as Bartlett's nearing completion and other varieties such as Comice and Anjou about 30 percent complete. Gala and other early varieties of apples were being harvested. Prunes, late blackberries, and late peaches were also being harvested. The summer pear harvest continued in mid-Hood River Valley orchards and the winter pear harvest began in the lower valley.

Nurseries and Greenhouses: Greenhouses were beginning to get fall decorative plants and vegetable starts out. Nurseries continued to be busy with stock up-keep.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Hot and dry weather has deteriorated dryland pastures and range all across the State, requiring producers to supplement feed. Drinking water was also limited in some areas. Livestock were still doing well, especially on irrigated pastures.

Soil Moisture-Week Ending 09/14/08

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	38	38	24	0
Subsoil	40	38	22	0

Crop Progress-Week Ending 09/14/08

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5 year average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Alfalfa hay, third cutting	75	69	96	74
Winter wheat planted	15	6	12	8
Days suitable for fieldwork	6.9	6.9	6.5	6.5

Crop Condition-Week Ending 09/14/08

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	0	0	36	48	16
Range and pasture	23	32	34	11	0

WESTERN OREGON

BENTON/LINN/LANE: A lot of field preparation for fall planting was going on.

CLACKAMAS: It was a warm and dry week. There were some cool foggy mornings followed by hot afternoons. Sweet corn and tomatoes were plentiful. Prunes and late blackberries were ripe. It was a good time to spray those pesky wild blackberries. Pastures were drying out. Most seed and grain harvests were over. Fall tillage was raising dust.

COOS/CURRY: Hot, dry, windy days have dried even the best pastures. Cool nights have contributed dew which is extending, but not reviving dry pastures. Temperatures were slightly below the 5-year average for the week in Coos and well below average in Curry County, with a trace of rainfall on Friday and Sunday in Brookings. The fall weather was becoming more apparent with breezy conditions helping keep the temperatures moderate for the week, with gusts to near 25 miles per hour recorded on the coast, with morning fog prevalent close to the ocean and less so inland. Bandon (Coos & Northern Curry): The low temperature for the period was 44.54 degrees, 3.2 degrees below the 5-year average. The high temperature for the period was 65.25 degrees, 3.79 degrees below the 5-year average. Precipitation for the period was 0.0 inches, compared to a 5-year (including drought years 2003-2004) average of 0.33 inches. Precipitation for Current weather year precipitation (began 10/07) stands at 51.67 inches, 4.77 inches below the 5-year average. Historical average precipitation through September is 60.4 inches. Brookings (Southern Curry): The low temperature for the period was 48.10 degrees, 1.74 degrees below the 5-year average. The high temperature for the period was 65.73 degrees, 12.72 degrees below the 5-year average, a 32 degree drop from last weeks high. Precipitation for the period was 0.02 inches over 2 days, compared to a 5-year (including drought years 2003-2004) average of .13 inches. Precipitation for Current weather year precipitation (began 10/07) stands at 66.88 inches, 15.08 inches below the 5-year average. Historical average precipitation for Brookings area through September is 73.48 inches.

DOUGLAS: Very warm and dry conditions continued, allowing wine grapes to mature nicely despite being about 10 days behind normal ripening pace. Tree fruit crops were also finishing nicely with the pear harvest moving quickly. Bartlett's were finished and Comice and Anjou were about 30 percent complete. The Gala apple harvest was just beginning. Vegetable seed crops were all being combined, the grass seed harvest was complete, and fall cover crops were being planted.

JACKSON: It was another very hot and dry week. Temperatures were about 5 percent above normal both days and nights. There was still some haying being done, but not much. There was still some grain standing, but will probably be cut this week. A lot of ground preparation was being done and getting ready for fall planting. Ground is too dry to plant now. The pear harvest was still going strong. Some early fall apples were being picked. Vineyards were looking good, but there are still a few weeks until harvest. There were still a lot of good vegetables being harvested: corn, tomatoes, squash, peppers, and onions. Greenhouses were starting to get out fall vegetable starts and some fall decorated plants. Nurseries were busy

with stock upkeep. Cattle on good irrigated pastures were looking good. Any livestock on dry ground now need supplemental feed. With the hot and dry conditions, a good ground soaking is needed now if we are going to have any good fall pasture. The majority of the work last week was the fruit harvest. Farmer's markets were still quite busy with produce.

JOSEPHINE: We had some very hot, smoky days and cool nights. Night time temperatures were in the lower 40's and day time temperatures in the 90's. The shorter days and cooler nights have made it tolerable. Grapes continued to mature and the crop looks good. Local produce markets were doing better business, but have not been having the usual heavy traffic. Livestock were doing well. The hay market has been strong in this area, made up mostly of grass hay. There is some alfalfa, but is used mostly as cover crop in rotation. We could really use some moisture. The very dry and smoky conditions make it an explosive situation, but our fire departments have been doing a wonderful job of knocking down any fires quickly.

MARION: With the warm and dry weather, grain and grass harvesting was completed. Some grass seed fields were being burned, some were being flail-mowed close to the ground, and some were being irrigated following harvest to stimulate grass growth. Red clover was still getting combined. The hop and mint harvests were just about finished. Fourth cutting of hay was being put up. Corn was being topped and harvested. Various flower seeds were still being harvested. Many fields were getting worked for fall plantings.

POLK: Fall-like weather with cool nights and warm days, but still very dry. A lot of field work was being done in preparation for fall seeding. Most small grains have been harvested. There was some sprout damage on those harvested after moisture from a few weeks ago.

TILLAMOOK: It felt like fall was here last week. Conditions were still dry, but things have greened up due to some moisture received in the past weeks. We are still in need of some rain though.

WASHINGTON: The high temperature was 85 degrees and the low was 41 degrees with humidity ranging between 60 and 40 percent. There was a fair amount of field work for fall planting. Filbert orchards were being prepared for harvest and some were starting to fall. Red clover was mostly finished, haying was winding down, wheat was finally done, and field corn was doing well with ears filling. Most fruit stands had blackberries and blueberries, with some strawberries still available. Sweet corn was ready, tomatoes were ripe, and cucumbers were beginning to wind down. Irrigation was ongoing. Pastures were dry with the hot weather.

YAMHILL: Early varieties of hazelnuts were starting to drop. Early season apples and late season peaches were being harvested. The plum harvest continued.

EASTERN OREGON

BAKER/UNION: Last week was warm and dry. The grain and peppermint harvests will be completed this week. The potato harvest has begun. Varying freeze events during the last one to two weeks have had some impact on potatoes, sugarbeets, and sweet corn.

CROOK/DESCHUTES/JEFFERSON: The carrot seed harvest was just beginning, which is about 1 to 2 weeks later than last year; however, conditions look favorable for harvest.

GILLIAM: Winter wheat was coming up in a number of early-seeded fields.

HOOD RIVER: Fair weather prevailed through the week. Summer pear harvest continued in upper-Hood River Valley orchards and winter pear harvest got underway in the lower valley.

LAKE: Conditions have not changed much. Most of the hay harvest was completed.

MALHEUR: Warm clear days and cool nights made for ideal harvesting conditions last week. Temperatures were a little above normal and no precipitation was received. Harvesting continued on hay, onions, potatoes, and corn.

WALLOWA: Not much change from the previous week. Harvesting was still underway, but no word on yields yet.

WASCO: The whole County was dry and is in need of rain for fall grain seeding. Winter wheat planting was at a stand still. Fuel and fertilizer prices have been way above normal and will be a factor in next year's crop profits. The hay harvest was winding down for the season, and the fruit harvest continued. Pastures and rangelands have reached a season low, and water is becoming short for all livestock; however, cattle were still holding their own. Rain would help all farm and ranch situations.

Weather data for selected stations in Oregon, Week ending: September 14, 2008 (as of 11:00 am) ¹

Station	Air temperature ²				Growing degree days ³		Last week precip. ⁴			Season cum. precipitation ⁵			
	Low	High	Avg.	DFN ⁶	Total	DFN ⁶	Total inches	DFN ⁶	Days ⁷	Total inches	DFN ⁶	Pct. normal	Days ⁷
COASTAL AREAS													
Astoria/Clatsop	46	78	60	+2	75	+12	-	-0.63	-	64.04	-3.59	95	203
Bandon ⁸	45	65	55	-4	35	-21	-	-0.35	-	53.50	-6.13	90	190
Crescent City	46	61	52	-7	18	-45	-	-0.36	-	45.35	-20.58	69	126
Florence	36	81	57	-4	52	-19	-	-0.52	-	88.48	11.00	114	172
North Bend	45	73	56	-3	47	-16	-	-0.38	-	58.97	-5.10	92	162
Tillamook	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WILLAMETTE VALLEY													
Aurora ⁸	44	90	69	+7	137	+49	-	-0.41	-	43.26	1.40	103	178
Corvallis	42	88	66	+5	118	+30	-	-0.35	-	43.90	0.53	101	164
Detroit Lake ⁸	46	91	66	+10	116	+63	-	-0.49	-	91.91	23.37	134	192
Eugene	40	90	65	+2	109	+13	-	-0.37	-	35.72	-14.42	71	147
Hillsboro	39	89	65	+4	105	+24	-	-0.35	-	31.95	-6.32	83	149
McMinnville	38	90	66	+4	115	+27	-	-0.35	-	34.31	-9.56	78	152
Portland	49	91	69	+6	135	+34	-	-0.42	-	34.09	-3.06	92	170
Salem	42	90	67	+5	119	+31	-	-0.35	-	37.20	-2.64	93	141
SW VALLEYS													
Grants Pass	49	95	71	+5	147	+36	-	-0.21	-	28.23	-3.15	90	125
Medford	51	98	73	+7	162	+45	-	-0.21	-	16.39	-2.87	85	105
Roseburg	49	94	70	+6	143	+41	-	-0.28	-	31.92	-1.35	96	142
NORTH CENTRAL													
Condon	44	87	62	+4	83	+21	-	-0.19	-	12.14	-2.34	84	107
Echo ⁸	39	91	63	-2	93	-7	-	-0.13	-	7.92	-1.33	86	100
Heppner	45	86	64	+3	99	+15	-	-0.21	-	14.05	-0.23	98	122
Hermiston	39	90	64	-1	95	-5	-	-0.13	-	7.91	-1.34	86	86
Madras ⁸	39	86	62	+2	82	+11	-	-0.14	-	8.13	-2.59	76	100
Moro	42	85	62	+3	88	+13	-	-0.14	-	9.68	-1.74	85	90
Parkdale ⁸	38	84	61	+1	79	+0	-	-0.28	-	22.63	-8.73	72	116
Pendleton	45	86	65	+1	105	+3	-	-0.14	-	11.64	-0.67	95	100
Prairie City ⁸	39	86	62	+2	82	+11	-	-0.14	-	8.13	-2.59	76	100
The Dalles	44	91	68	+8	126	+49	-	-0.14	-	13.23	0.42	103	85
SOUTH CENTRAL													
Agency Lake ⁸	32	86	58	+3	58	+12	-	-0.14	-	12.90	-3.61	78	97
Bend	34	81	59	+3	63	+12	-	-0.14	-	11.84	-0.16	99	78
Burns	31	85	58	+3	57	+8	-	-0.14	-	9.12	-1.14	89	103
Christmas Valley ⁸	27	89	57	-4	49	-25	-	-0.12	-	7.36	-5.29	58	74
Klamath Falls	38	89	63	+3	93	+19	-	-0.09	-	9.72	-4.03	71	84
Klamath Falls ⁸	39	88	65	+5	106	+32	-	-0.09	-	10.96	-2.79	80	108
Lakeview	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lorella ⁸	31	89	59	-2	64	-10	-	-0.09	-	9.40	-4.35	68	110
Redmond	29	86	58	-1	56	-4	-	-0.10	-	2.90	-5.93	33	45
Warden ⁸	33	89	60	+0	72	-2	-	-0.09	-	8.38	-5.37	61	102
NORTHEAST													
Baker City	29	82	56	-3	43	-19	-	-0.20	-	10.10	-1.21	89	121
Joseph	40	75	57	+4	49	+11	-	-0.29	-	19.65	-5.81	77	135
La Grande	36	86	61	+0	80	+1	-	-0.21	-	14.93	-3.00	83	109
Union	35	85	60	+2	70	+6	-	-0.27	-	12.35	-2.03	86	107
SOUTHEAST													
Ontario	40	87	65	+2	109	+8	-	-0.14	-	6.33	-3.65	63	71
Rome	34	88	61	+1	77	-2	-	-0.14	-	7.10	-1.48	83	88

¹ Summary based on NWS data. Copyright 2008: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

² Air temperature in degrees Fahrenheit.

³ Growing degree days base-50 degrees Fahrenheit.

⁴ Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

⁵ Season cumulative precipitation starts September 1, 2008.

⁶ DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-1990 normals period).

⁷ Precipitation days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

⁸ Agri-Met weather stations.